

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 900

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Donna Burnette on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Donna Burnette is one such estimable person, who will take her much-deserved retirement on November 1, 2022, after thirty-five years of public safety telecommunications service, including thirty-two years of service to the Blount County Community; and

WHEREAS, in November 1981, Donna Burnette enlisted in the United States Air Force as a Telecommunications Specialist; during her four-and-one-half-year tenure, she was based at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and in Kwang Ju, Korea. She obtained an Associate of Applied Science degree in Telecommunications Systems Technology and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant in March 1985; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burnette began her illustrious thirty-five-year career in public safety communications as a dispatcher with the Knoxville Police Department in July 1986; she transitioned to the newly established Knox County Emergency Communications District in December 1986 and earned her first certification as a public safety telecommunicator through the Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials (APCO); and

WHEREAS, in November 1990, Ms. Burnette was hired by the Blount County Emergency Communications District (BCECD) as a public safety telecommunicator (PST-1), in which position she was responsible for call taking and dispatching; she was promoted to shift leader in 1999 and night shift supervisor in January 2000. During this time, she also obtained APCO certifications as a communications center supervisor and communications training officer, and in 2001 she obtained APCO's emergency medical dispatch manager certification; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burnette helped establish BCECD's emergency medical dispatching, fire, and law enforcement protocols, preparing the agency for its first Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA) accreditation in 2009; she earned the role of CALEA Accreditation Manager in 2012 and, during her tenure, oversaw BCECD's successful reaccreditation in 2012, 2015, and 2018; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Burnette received the Telecommunicator of the Year award in 2008, and in 2019, she received the Susie Dunn Honorary Award for her dedication to the Blount County E-911 Center; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burnette has served as the professional standards/accreditation manager since July 2020, overseeing both accreditation and quality assurance for the district; her final accreditation will take place in 2022; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Donna Burnette has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and her community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Donna Burnette our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.